

December 8 - 13, 2014 Kentucky Waterfowl Ground Counts

Duck and goose numbers remained relatively stable through the week on most survey areas this past week. The only major change was seen on Barren River where it appears the large number of diving ducks observed there last week have now moved on. Numbers on Barren River Lake are now back near seasonal levels for this time of year. The rains we had the past weekend helped to improve water conditions on many areas, but some MSU's could still use some additional water.

In general waterfowl hunting success declined this past week as we have moved into a period of stable weather with near normal temperatures combined with clear nights and a relatively bright moonlight. These conditions caused waterfowl to change to a night feeding pattern with most birds moving to foraging areas during the pre-sunrise/post-sunrise periods. These patterns should change in the near future as the moon continues to wane and with the arrival of predicted frontal patterns next week. A quick review of waterfowl numbers to the north in IL show a substantial number remain to the north in the IL and MS river bottoms.

Good Hunting!!

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Ballard WMA	59,880 ducks 7,300 WFG 310 CG	76% mallard, 12% gadwall, 9% ring-necked duck, remainder a mix of shoveler, green-winged teal, wood duck, wigeon and black duck.	Water in hunt units are at average pool with some units at zero due to water issues. The Ohio River has been on a steady climb that has helped us hold water in certain units. Food abundant in MSUs and flooded crops on the hunt units.
Barren River Lake	300 ducks 100 CG	50% divers (mix of bufflehead, goldeneye and ring-necked ducks), 50% dabblers, mostly mallards.	Major rain event finally filled MSUs and got springs running. Peters Creek 70% full, Calvert Springs 100% full
Birdsville Island	No Count		
Kentucky/Barkley Lakes 11/26 Last Count	15,000 ducks		Good submergent growth due to good water clarity.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Duck Island	1,800 ducks 250 CG	98% mallard, remainder gadwall, black duck and ring-necked duck.	Central impoundment at 65%. Re-initiated water flow into central impoundment on Dec. 9 to continue a slow rise into new habitat. South impoundment dry and waiting rainfall.
Boatwright WMA	4,500 ducks	100% mallard	Bird numbers remain low, but constant at Swan. Main forage areas are MSUs and flooded milo/millet plots in hunt units and rest areas.
Doug Travis WMA	3,400 ducks	90% mallards, 10% mixed dabblers and ring-necked ducks.	Most waterfowl on refuge in south. Two wells running.
Clear Creek WMA	No Count		
Peabody WMA	2,268 ducks 225 CG	Almost all mallards.	Water beginning to fill MSU's.
Sloughs WMA	11,300 ducks 250 CG geese 11,000WF geese 6500 Snow geese 78 Tundra swans	90% mallard, 10% Gadwall, Wigeon, Pintail, Shoveler, & Ringnecks	Most ducks and WF geese are concentrated on natural sloughs recently flooded by rainfall received over the last two weeks.
Yellowbank WMA	525 ducks	75% mallard, wood duck, black duck, gadwall	Most MSU's are at 60% water capacity
Blue Grass Army Depot (all lakes and ponds)	750 ducks 36 CG	90% diving ducks (440 redhead, 95 ruddy, 50 ring-necked duck, remainder were coots and mergansers) 10% dabblers 15 - mallards, 40 - gadwalls and a few black ducks	Diving ducks on Lake Vega.
Herrington Lake	15 ducks	15 mallards	Lake open, normal pool
Taylorsville Lake	No Count		MSUs are flooded.

Location	Number	Species Composition	Comments
Cedar Cr./Dix R. WMA	No Count		Dix River MSU's are dry. Need rain to recharge. Lake levels normal. Good vegetative margins.
Green River WMA	No Count		All MSU's and beaver ponds have some water. Lake at winter pool.
Cave Run Lake	No Count		